

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 208

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the memory of Harold Edwin Stanford upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding citizens who, during their lifetimes, were dedicated to promoting the importance of farming in our society; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in agriculture have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual was the late Harold Edwin Stanford, who was recently posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame for his life's work as an agricultural advocate; and

WHEREAS, Harold Stanford was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on November 23, 1918, to R.D. and Myrtle Meredith Stanford, and his family moved to Donelson when he was only six months old; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stanford was raised in the antebellum home, "Belle Aire," on Lebanon Road with his siblings, R.D., Jr., and Myrtle; and

WHEREAS, as a young boy, Harold Stanford's favorite time was spent on his family's farm, where his father raised Hereford and Angus cattle; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Donelson High School, and, in 1940 he graduated from Vanderbilt University and then enlisted in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, he was later joined in holy matrimony with Sara Dotson and the couple's blessed union produced two children, Ginny Perdue and Ed Stanford, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Mr. Stanford founded Stanford Farms, where he established a herd of registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, and in 1959, he moved to Wilson County and purchased a farm on Big Springs Road, which he actively farmed until his dispersal sale in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Stanford Farms showed the Supreme Champion Bull at the 1962 American Angus Futurity and the Grand Champion Supreme Champion Bull at the 1966 American Angus Futurity; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, the first Chianina and Angus cross calves were born on Mr. Stanford's farm, and it was at that time that he began his work as one of the founding breeders of the Chiangus breed of cattle; and

WHEREAS, Stanford Farms was assigned the ninety-sixth member number of the American Chianina Association, and Mr. Stanford believed intensely that Chianina genetics should be used in his excellent registered Angus herd; and

WHEREAS, Harold Stanford was described by many as a visionary breeder and pioneer; and

WHEREAS, during the 1970s-80s, when bigger cattle were supposedly better, purebred breeders were breeding their cattle to be the biggest they could be as quickly as possible, but Mr. Stanford kept breeding the same type of cattle, believing correctly that the cattle industry would eventually return back to his kind of cattle; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stanford developed the most valuable maternal genetic line in the Chiangus breed, but his most enduring legacy was his genuine and sincere interest in giving advice to younger Chiangus breeders; and

WHEREAS, upon the dispersement of his cattle herd in 1991, Mr. Stanford had two seventeen-year-old Angus cows that he did not want to send to the sale barn, so he gave the cows to a young Chiangus breeder, Tyler Winegardner, a gift which directly resulted in several popular show lines of cattle; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest agricultural standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor the late Harold Stanford for his lifetime of farming achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Harold Edwin Stanford upon the occasion of his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame and recognize his laudable contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.